

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 63 and 81 are amended herein to include subject matter of claims 75 and 82, respectively. Claims 75 and 82 are cancelled herein without prejudice, to avoid redundancy. Claims 64, 70, 71, 76, 77 and 80 are amended herein to be in independent form and claims 96 and 97 are amended to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, claims 1-62, 75 and 82 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 63-74, 76-81 and 83-99 are pending in the application.

Claims 83-99 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-62 of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,420. In response, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the rejection of claims 83-99. The rejection of claims 83-99 is, therefore, respectfully traversed.

Claims 63 and 81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shepter. This rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of claims 63 and 81 as amended herein. In particular, claim 63 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 75. Claim 81 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 82. Claims 75 and 82 were not included in the rejection over Shepter and were believed to be patentably distinguished from Shepter. Accordingly, amended claims 63 and 81 are likewise, patentably distinguished over Shepter. The rejection of amended claims 63 and 81 is, therefore, respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 64-80 and 82 would be allowable, if re-written in independent form and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 64, 70, 71, 76, 77 and 80 are amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to place them in condition for allowance. Claim 81 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 82.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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